

LIBRARIES
The Jones Library, Munson Memorial Library, North Amherst Library
Fiscal Year 2009

Everyone is welcome!

543,137 – Number of books, magazines, movies and music borrowed from Amherst Town Libraries in FY 09, making Amherst Town Libraries the second heaviest used in Western Massachusetts after Springfield City Library system.

4,715.5 – Number of hours that the Jones and branch libraries were open.

26,287 – Library cards in use by people who registered at the Amherst Town Libraries.

Behind every statistic there is a story.

“Cuts? You must be kidding. The Library is the only internet access I have. I use it to look for a job. I may soon be homeless. The state can spend the money now or spend more later.”
Submitted by Steve

With the economic downturn, use of Town Libraries grew. Libraries have become an essential link for non-technical people who are dependent on the Internet to communicate, apply for jobs, find information, and access government benefits. Health information was the most frequent search topic. People signed up to use the public computers over 46,000 times. Many others signed on to the Town’s wireless Internet services available at all libraries. Thirty-eight computer classes taught Internet basics as well as word processing and spreadsheet applications, eBay, and digital photography. Thanks to a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, six new computers will be added next year at the North Amherst and Munson branches.

“...the Library is a great equalizer. I have observed people running businesses with the use of public computers because they don’t have their own! What a wonderful thing – to not be limited in creating viable work because you are without a computer!” Submitted by Donna

Jones Library responded to many community needs with educational opportunities. Local business start-ups learned new email marketing skills at Small Business Marketing workshops presented in partnership with the Valley Community Development Corporation. Local authors and poets shared their work. Monthly art exhibits filled the Burnett Gallery with multi-media work by local artists. “The Big Read: the poetry of Emily Dickinson” produced “Emily Dickinson 101”: four seminars on Dickinson’s life, myths and the major themes of her poetry, in partnership with the Emily Dickinson Museum and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts

The English as a Second Language Center used a federal LSTA grant to expand services to English language learners. Four volunteer-led “Conversation Circles” enrolled 150 new participants in the program. The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts awarded \$4,000 to the ESL Center from the Credit Data Services Fund. Grants were also received from the Henry J. Kaiser Foundation and The Amherst Club. The charity website Catalog of Philanthropy featured the Jones Library English as a Second Language Center as an outstanding opportunity for online donations.

“As a newlywed, I really appreciate the plethora of cookbooks I can check out; it’s made learning how to cook free, fabulous, and fun! We also go on a ‘library date’ at least once a

week to check out books and movies. It helps us keep our budget in check while allowing us to read as much as we want!" From the Z family

Despite budget cuts, the Jones Library avoided closing on Monday afternoons when private donations met the terms of an anonymous \$3,000 matching grant. The Friends of the Jones Library System raised \$34,842 to support library staff and enrich the library's book and audiovisual collections. Memorial gifts from the friends and family of Frank Reilly and Arthur Swift spread their love of reading and learning. The Library also received a bequest from Gloria Kelman, to be used for books. Generous donors to the Annual Fund Drive raised \$53,212 for new library materials. The Library wishes to especially thank Jeannine Atkins, two anonymous donors, A.M. Treston, Arthur and Elaine Mange, and Patricia Holland for their leadership gifts and generous community spirit.

"We love the library! My children need the variety of books and games to enrich their educational experiences. They feel comfortable here, like a second home. Story hour is also a weekly treat they look forward to." Submitted by Sally

Children love to read! Children's books, music and movies made up 25% of all library loans. Staff presented 184 educational and musical programs to stimulate children's learning skills. Programs were attended by 5,100 children, friends and families. Young readers learned about coyotes in the backyard, how to present oral interpretations of Emily Dickinson's poetry, and listened to the high energy Andean and Latin fusion music of *Markamusic* as part of the Children's Music Series performances, funded by the Friends of the Jones Library System and the Amherst Cultural Council. Weekly story hours and the music and rhythm exercises of "Sing with your baby" offered an inexpensive and valuable educational resource for young families.

"As a person on a fixed income, I get materials from the library as least 4 to 5 days a week. I have some vision problems and use books on tape a lot. They are very expensive to rent and books on tape doesn't rent anymore. More cuts to the library would be devastating to me and people on fixed incomes everywhere." From Ashley

Questions about Amherst History dominated the work of the Special Collections department in advance of the Town's 250th Anniversary in 2009. Library staff created "Digital Amherst" at www.digitalamherst.org, a prize-winning interactive website that features exhibits of photographs, maps and manuscripts which are organized around monthly themes for the Town's celebration. As part of the Town's celebration, Henry Lyman read the poetry of Robert Francis accompanied by Sarah McKee on the Celtic harp for very special evening celebrating Amherst muses. Donations of historical materials enriched the Special Collections and local history department. Charles, Stephen and Robert Johnson contributed to the work on the Clifton Johnson Collection.

Jones Library, Inc. Endowment. Vanguard Group Asset Management Services reported the market value of the Jones Library, Inc. Endowment Fund declined to \$6,670,892 as of June 30, 2009.

Library Trustees

Patricia Holland, President
Carol Gray, Vice President
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Louis Greenbaum, Assistant Treasurer
Sarah McKee, Clerk
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Library Staff

Bonnie Isman, Library Director
Sondra Radosh, Asst. Director & Children's Librarian
Amy Anaya, Head of Circulation Services
Beth Girshman, Adult Services Librarian
Susan Hugus, Munson Memorial Librarian
Rosemary Loomis, Head of Reference
Tevis Kimball, Curator of Special Collections
Carolyn Platt, Head of Technical Services
Janet Ryan, Reference Librarian
Maggie Spiegel, North Amherst Librarian
Lynne Weintraub, ESL Coordinator
Henry Allan, Computer Technician
Tina Swift, Administrative Assistant
Chris White, Cataloging Technician
George Hicks, Building Supervisor
Kate Boyle, Special Collections Assistant
Silvia Brinkerhoff, Children's Library Assistant
Miguel Otero, Assistant Custodian
Colin Faith, Assistant Custodian

Seth Rothberg, Asst. Circulation Supervisor
Lace Stokes, Sunday Supervisor
Cathy Verts, Audiovisual Technician
Theresa Atteridge, Library Assistant
Tomi Eve, Library Assistant
Bryan Grabigel, Office Clerk/Receptionist
Ralph Hurwitz, AV Assistant
Judy Lincoln, Library Assistant
Joan Pyfrom, Cataloging Assistant
Abigail Smith, Cataloging Assistant

PART-TIME STAFF: Cynthia Backlund, Roxanne Brown-Boyd, Laura Castano-Longey, Lucy Chen, Erin Daly, Hillary Dawson, Jennifer Ditkoff, Janice Doyama, Kira Eve, Andrea Filipkowski, Julie Gilfeather, Kathryn Jaloweic, Jean Holden, Karen Kowles, Jessica Lamson, Robin Levine, Shiyuan Liu, Susan McCoy, Barbara McGlynn, Kristin Munson, Wanda Meck, Jill Palmer, Jose Paredes, Lise Sheehan, Lisa Slocum, Valerie Steinberg, Corinna Stokes, Rachel, Valitt, Mary Weidensaul, and Lauren Wilfong

Special Thanks to the FRIENDS OF THE JONES LIBRARY SYSTEM!

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Sterling Bush, Secretary
Kathy Caputo, Treasurer
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Beds for Books Coordinator:

Sandra Mullin

**TOWN LIBRARIES AT A GLANCE
FISCAL YEAR 2009**

Library Checkouts - FY 09	
TOTAL	543,137
Jones Library	431,893
Munson Memorial	40,854
North Amherst	36,255
Sent to other libraries for checkout	34,135

Reference and Research Assistance FY 09 - In person, by telephone and email	
TOTAL	38,806
Jones – Adults	18,980
Jones – Kids	6,955
Special Collections	3,589
Branch Libraries	8,268
ESL Center	1,014

Cataloged Collections Available June 30, 2009	
Books	208,516
Audio & Visual Items	25,082
Electronic & Other Materials	952
Online AV – Overdrive	3,020
Purchased in FY 09	8,281
Donations added	1,290
Items Withdrawn in FY 09	10,130

Amherst Residents with C/W MARS cards June 30, 2009	
TOTAL	18,523
Adults	16,691
Children, 4 to 13 yrs.	1,832
New borrowers registered in FY 09	2,133

Computer Sign-ups FY 09	
TOTAL	46,790
Jones - Reference	42,113
Jones – Kids	1,914
Special Collections	168
Branch Libraries	2,596

Events and Public Meetings FY 09	
TOTAL	1,583
All library events for adults	241
All library events for kids	284
Public meetings and events	326
ESL Tutor meetings and circles	732